

ABSOLUTE

BATMAN



ALL IN

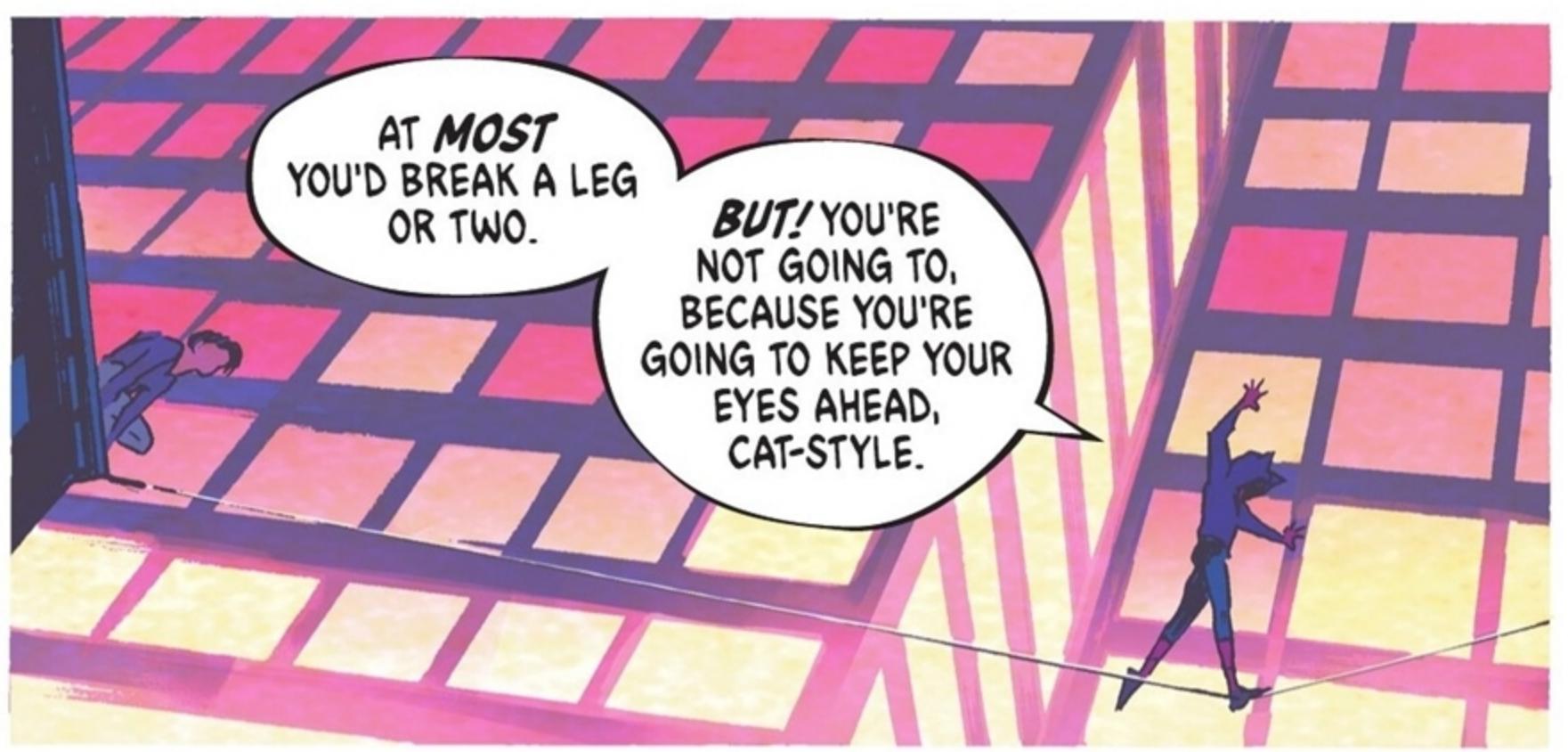
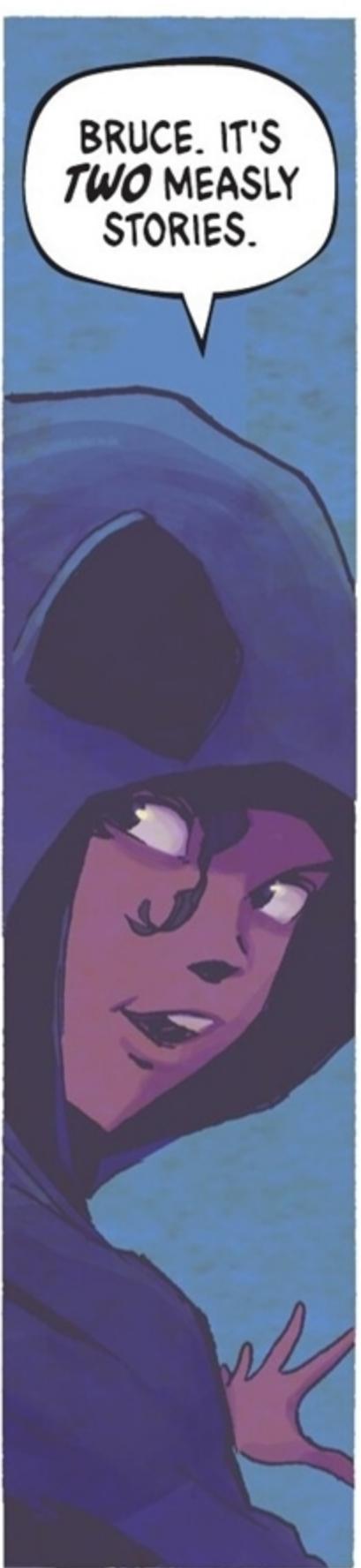
13+ TEEN

3



SNYDER
DRAGOTTA
MARTIN

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ABSOLUTE
BATMAN

"THE ZOO"

PART THREE

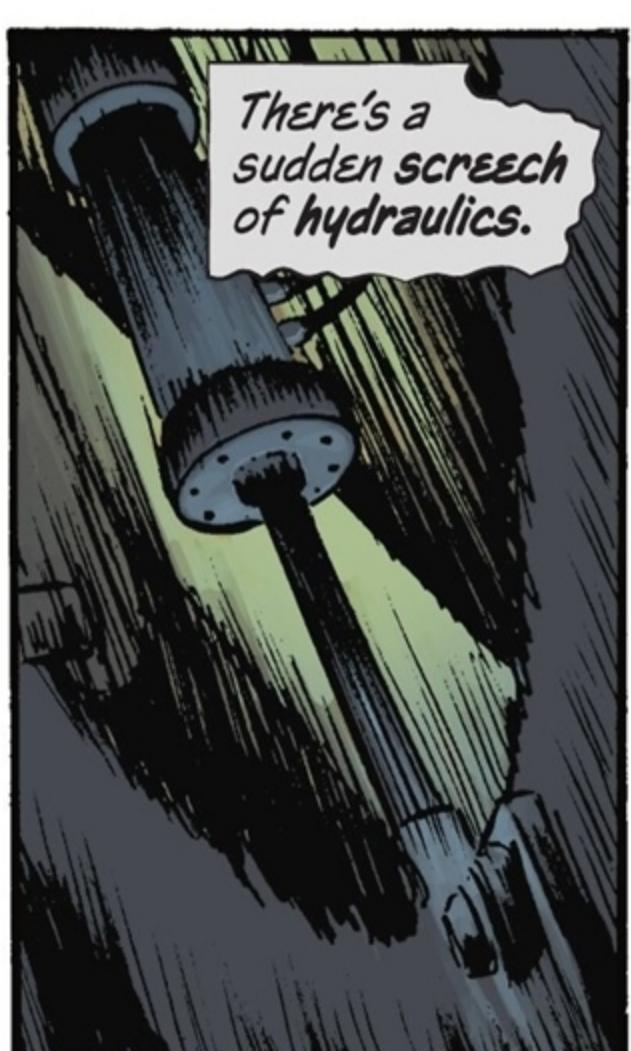
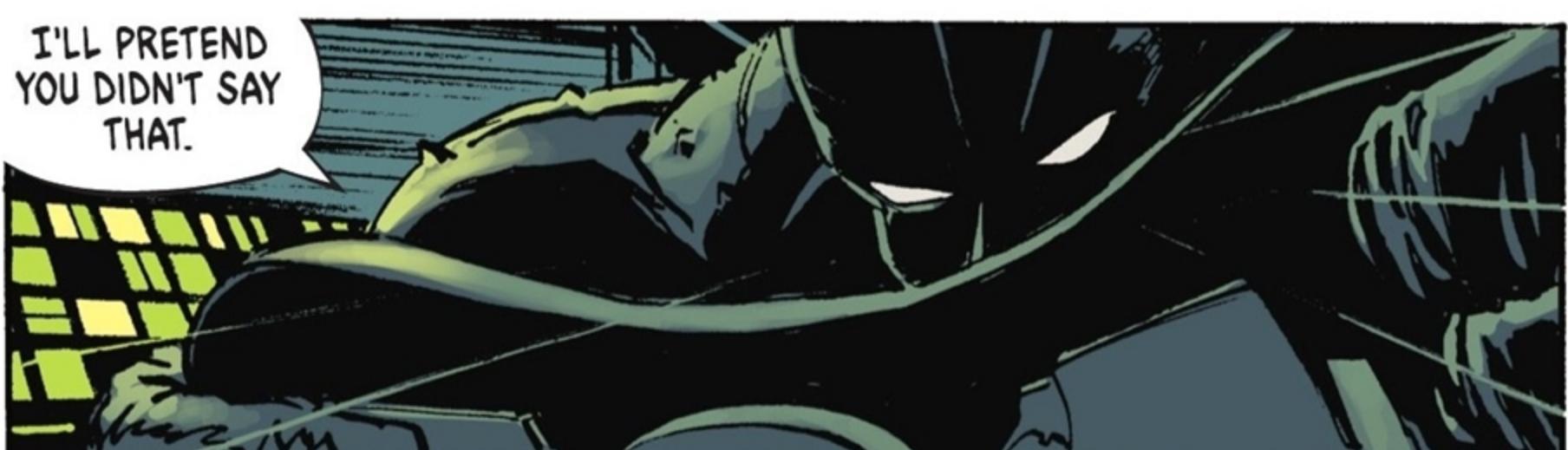
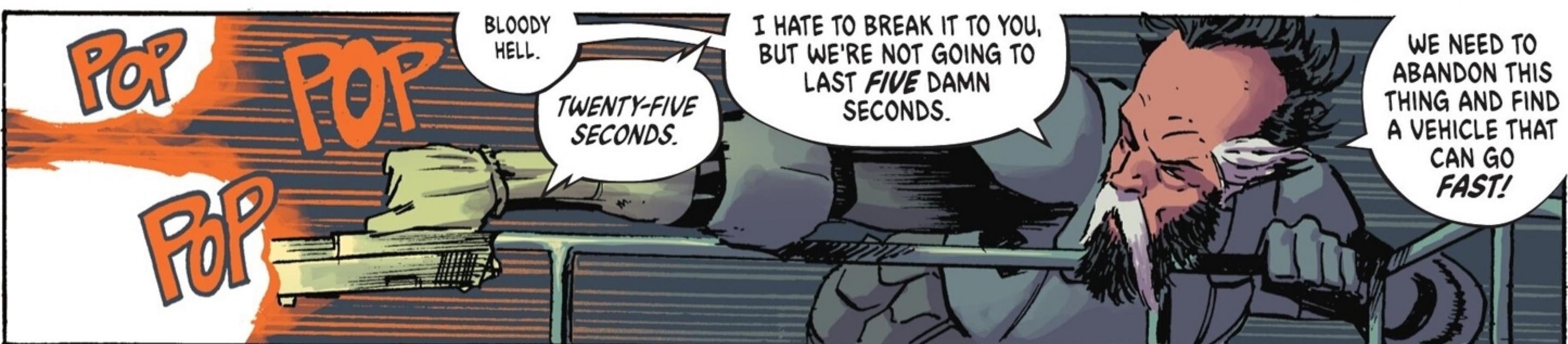
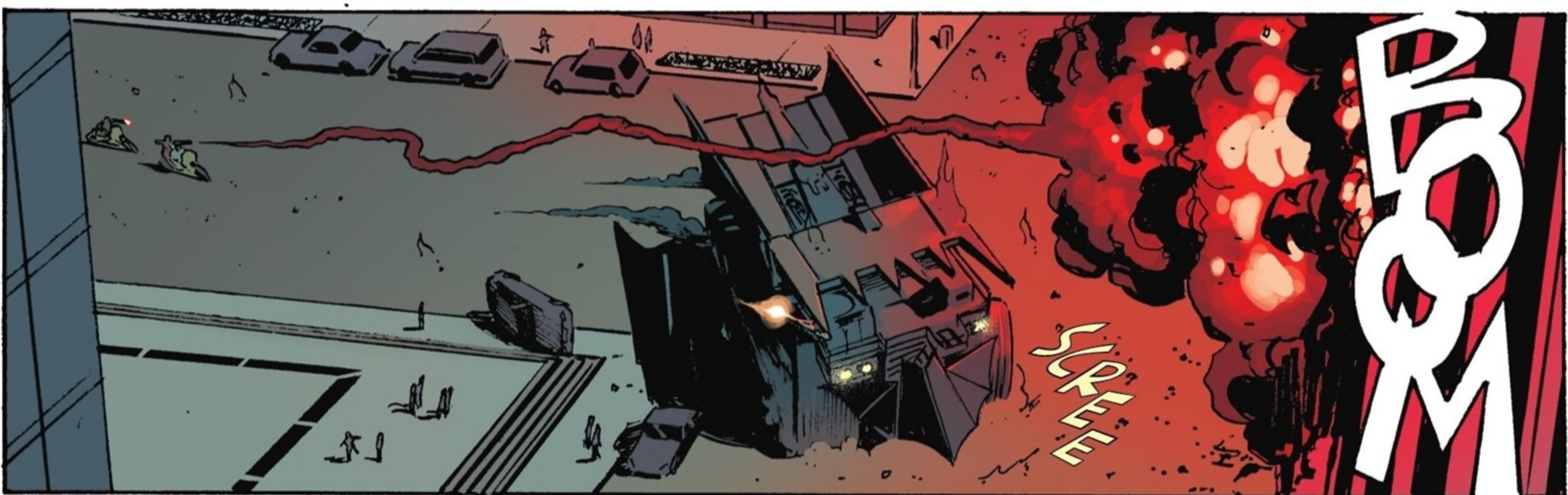
WRITER: SCOTT SNYDER • ARTIST: NICK DRAGOTTA
COLORIST: FRANK MARTIN • LETTERER: CLAYTON COWLES

COVER: DRAGOTTA & MARTIN • VARIANT COVERS: BECKY CLOONAN, GABRIELE DELL'OTTO,
RILEY ROSSMO & IVAN PLASCENCIA, and STEVAN SUBIC • ASSOCIATE EDITOR: SABRINA FUTCH
EDITOR: KATIE KUBERT • EXECUTIVE EDITOR: CHRIS CONROY • BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER

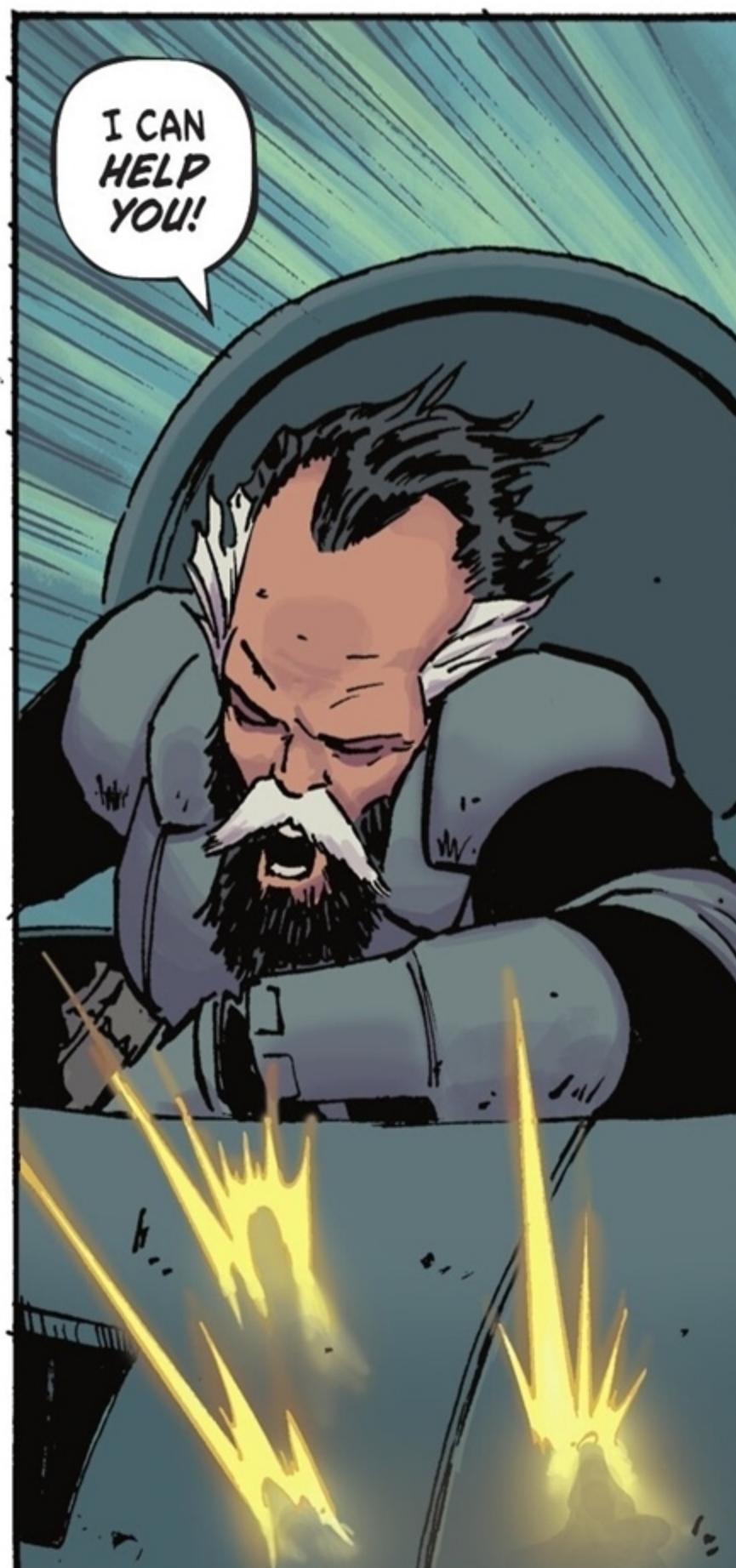
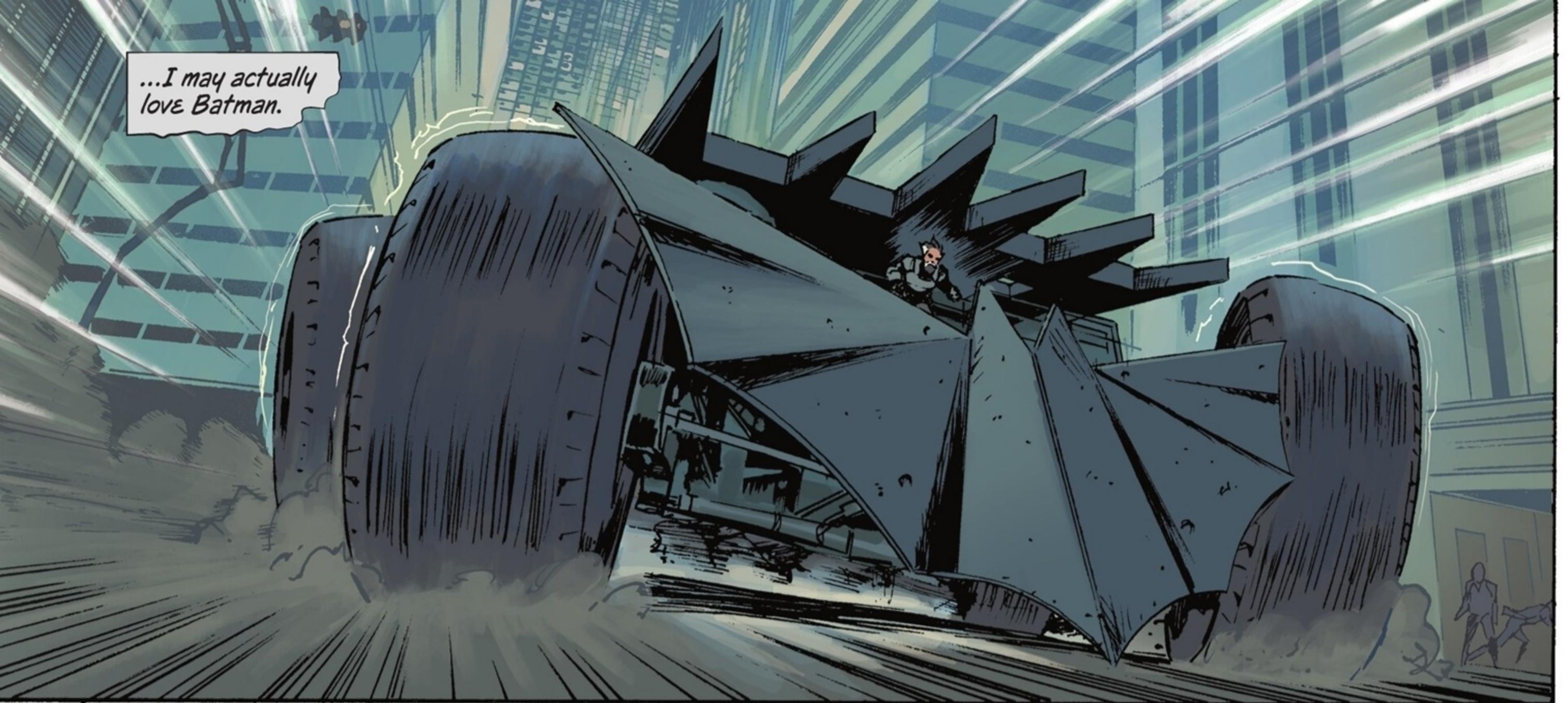


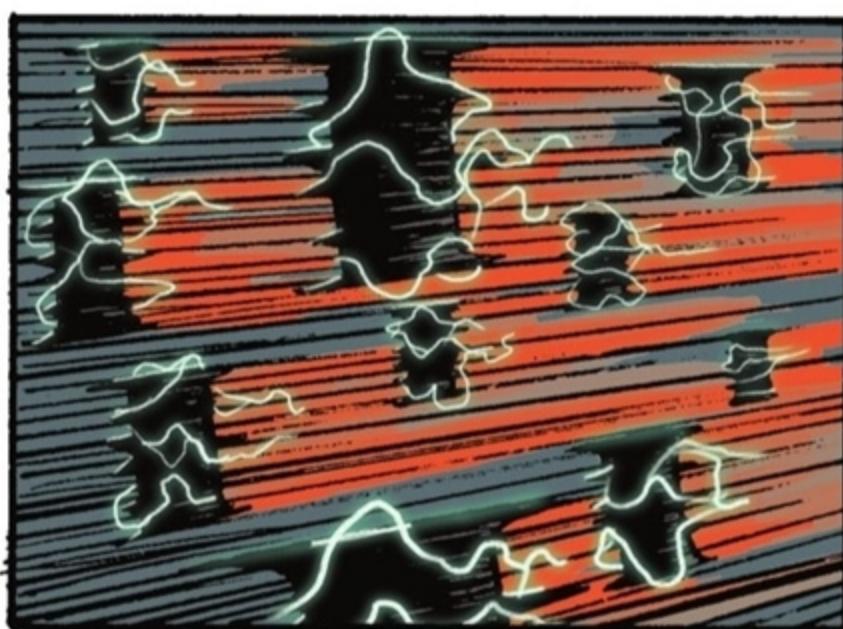
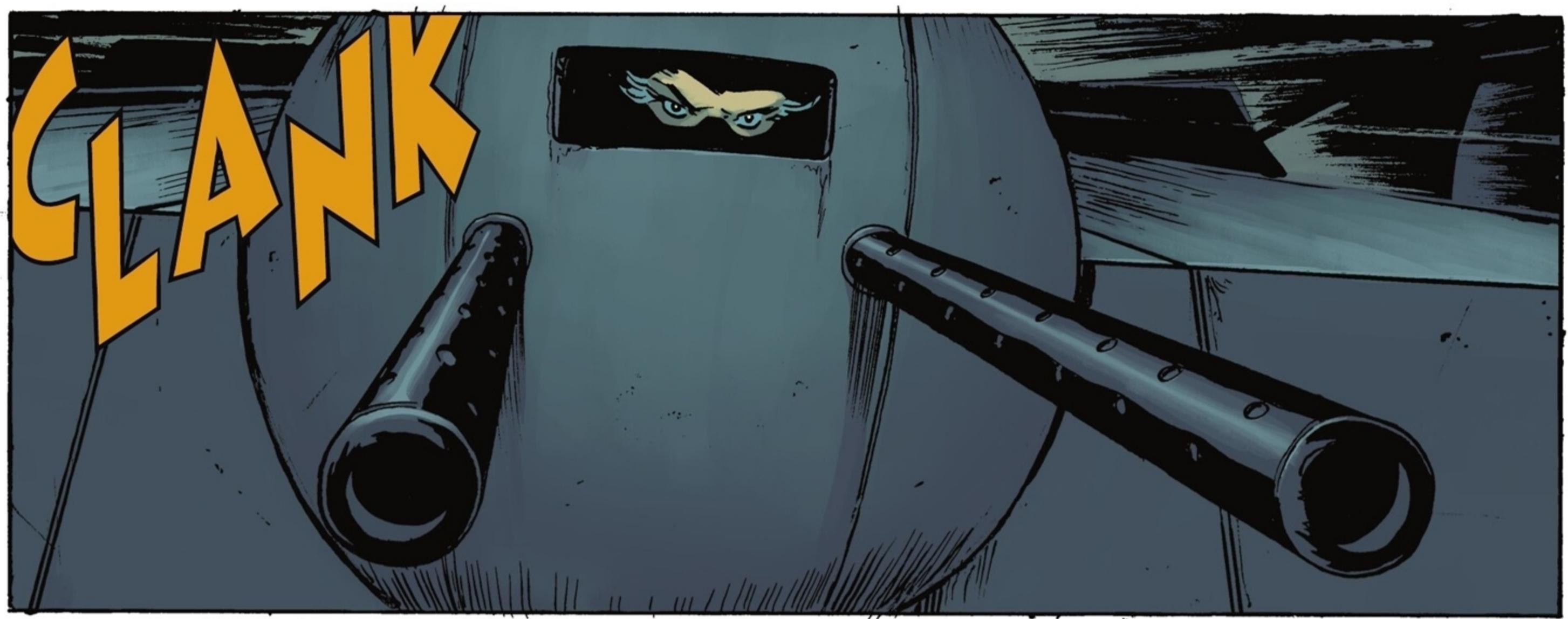


HE'S THE LEADER OF A SECRET PARAMILITARY GROUP THAT SERVES SOME OF THE MOST POWERFUL PEOPLE ON THE PLANET. DESTABILIZING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, VIOLENT DISRUPTION...



...I may actually love Batman.





BUT HE OFFERED YOU A DEAL BACK THERE. I HEARD HIM! THAT MEANS HE'S READY TO COMPROMISE.

MY GUESS IS, WHATEVER HE HAS BEEN TRYING TO ACHIEVE WITH THESE ATTACKS ON GOTHAM, IT'S ALMOST DONE.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?



I'M SAYING YOU MEET HIM, AGREE TO STEP DOWN YOUR FIGHT. I'LL BET HE'LL LOWER THE ATTACKS ON GOTHAM TO ALMOST NOTHING. MAYBE EVEN STOP THEM. YOU GET TO BE THE HERO.

BY QUITTING?
FORGET IT.

"BY SAVING LIVES THROUGH DIPLOMACY. BY BEING A #*\$%& GROWN UP! AND IF THAT'S NOT ENOUGH...

"...BLACK MASK SERVES SOME OF THE RICHEST GLOBAL PLUTOCRATS. THIS OFFER, IT'S PROBABLY FOR A HUNDRED MILLION, MORE...

"YOU TAKE IT, YOU CAN SET BATMAN UP AS SOMETHING REAL HERE.

"SOMETHING WITH IMPACT."

AND WHAT'S IN THIS FOR YOU?

"FOR SIONIS TO MAKE THE DEAL, HE'LL NEED TO MAKE TRANSACTIONS THAT WILL LIKELY GIVE MY PEOPLE ALL THEY NEED ON HIM.

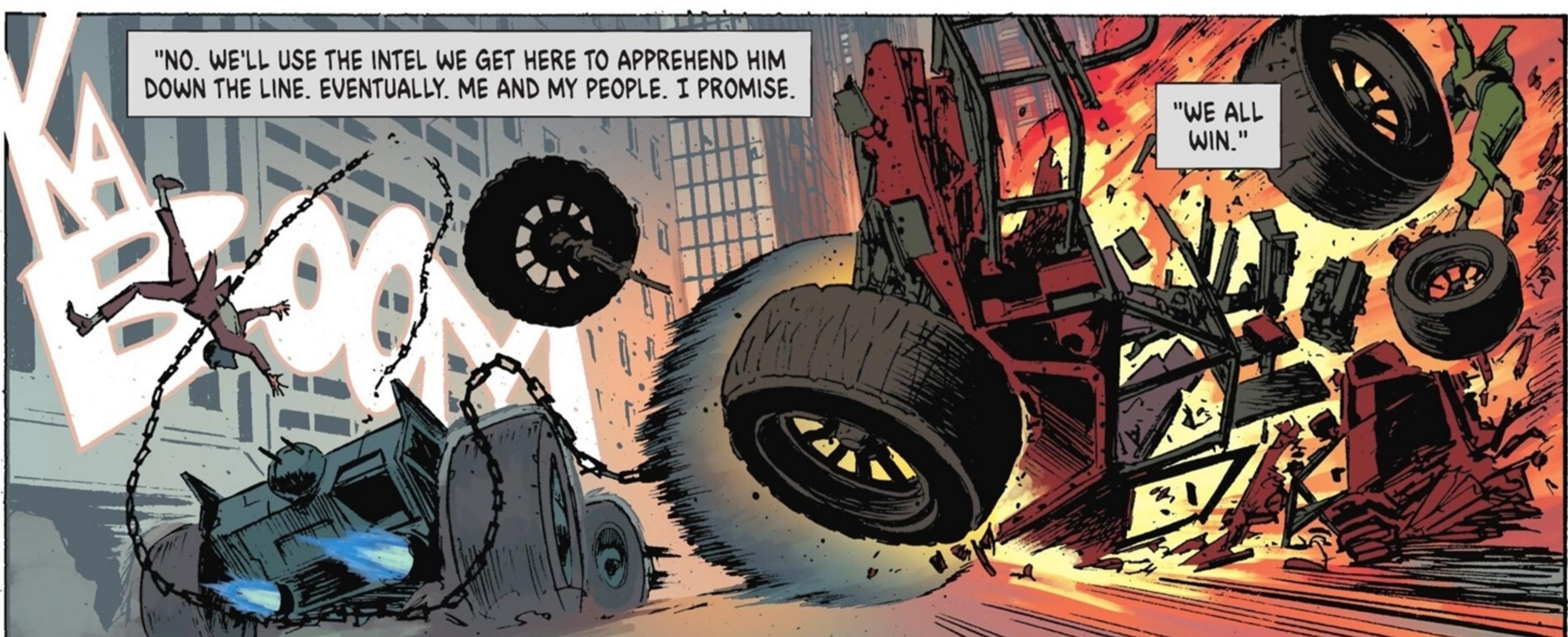
"SO ME? I GET TO LEAVE THIS CITY. AND YOU GET TO BUILD BATMAN BIG."

"REALLY BIG."

AND SIONIS JUST GETS AWAY?

"NO. WE'LL USE THE INTEL WE GET HERE TO APPREHEND HIM DOWN THE LINE. EVENTUALLY. ME AND MY PEOPLE. I PROMISE.

"WE ALL WIN."



Behind us, the sirens grow loud.

But I note that he has stopped his blasted countdown. He's hearing me, finally. He's listening, thank God.

ERRTT

THIS IS COMMISSIONER HARVEY BULLOCK! YOU WILL EXIT THE VEHICLE NOW!

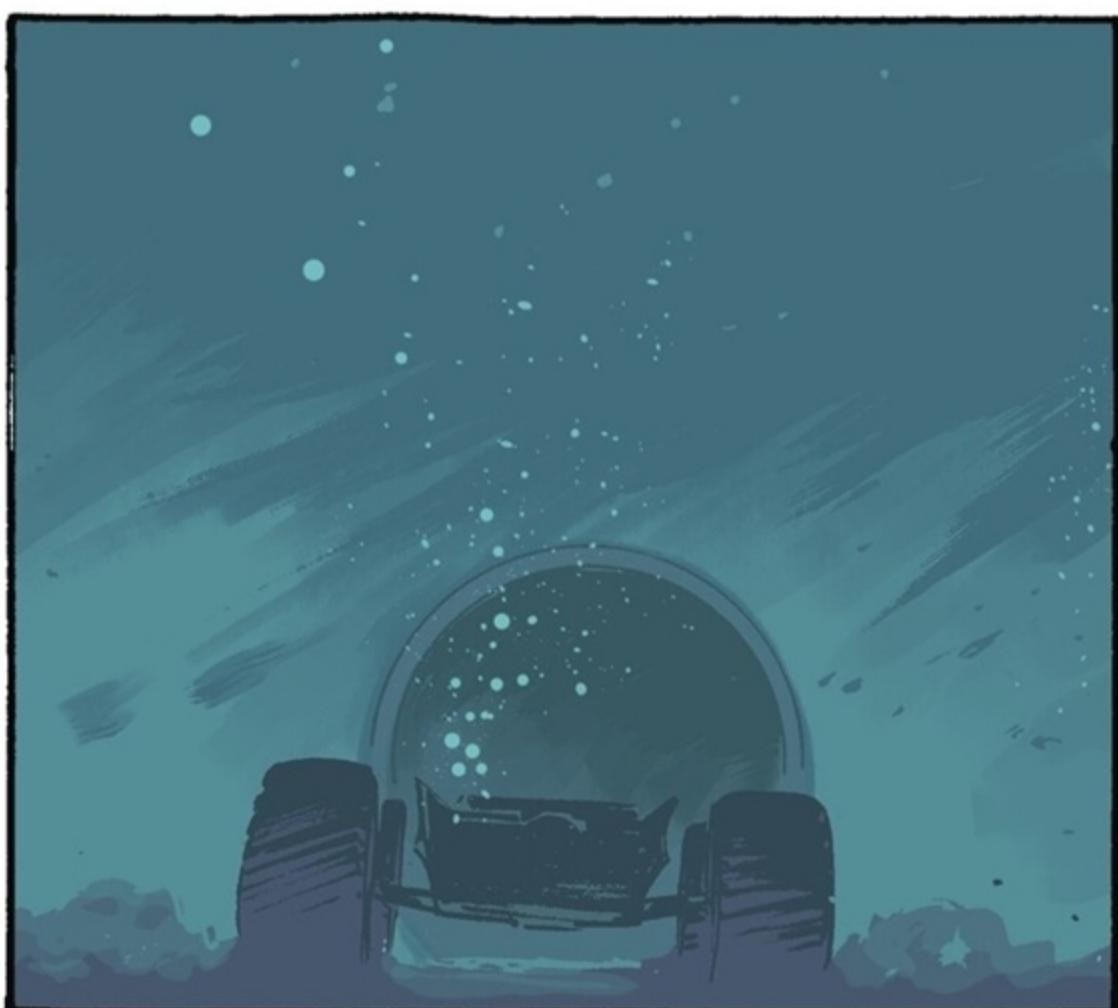
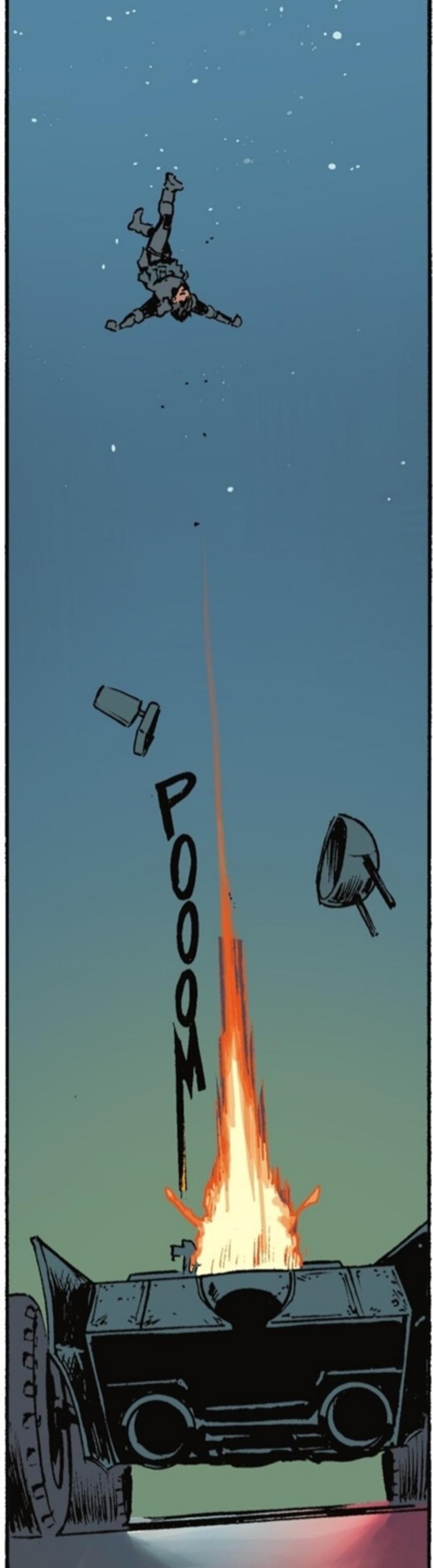
YOU AND WHOEVER ELSE YOU GOT IN THERE! YOU HEAR ME?!

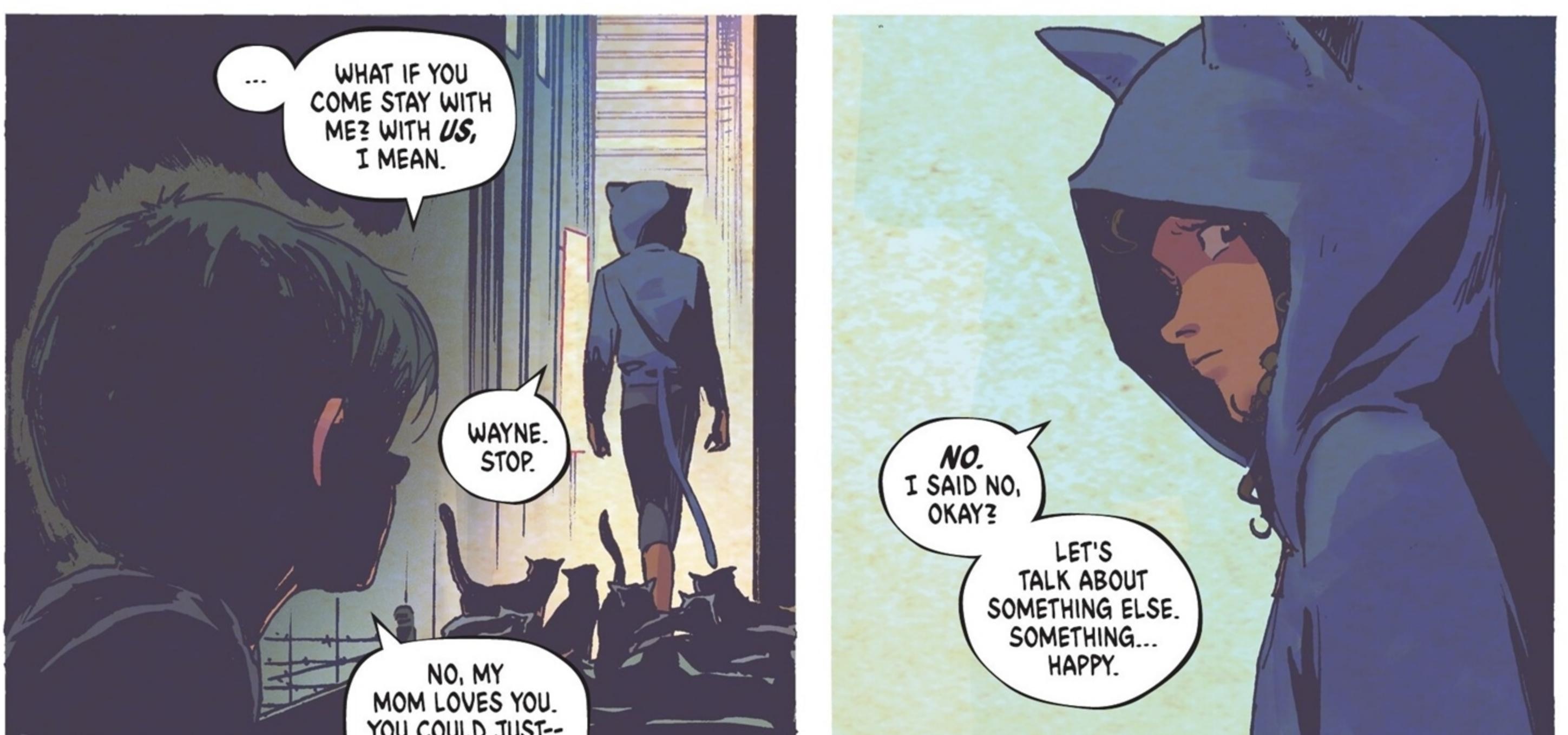


WE MAKE A DECENT TEAM, KID. TELL ME YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO GET US OUT OF THIS ONE AND LET'S KEEP IT GOING.

THE LEVER IN FRONT OF YOU.

ALL RIGHT TH--









ARSON, ROBBERY,
MURDER... EACH HAS A
DIFFERENT VALUE IN BLACK
COIN. BUT WE'RE TALKING
TENS AND HUNDREDS OF
THOUSANDS. MEMBERS
CAN GET QUITE WEALTHY
QUITE FAST.

HOW WOULD
SOMEONE DISRUPT IT?
THIS NETWORK.

THE
NETWORK IS FAR
TOO EXPANSIVE
FOR ANYONE TO
BRING DOWN.

YOU COULD TAKE OUT A
LOCAL SERVER, BUT THE
NETWORK IS SATELLITE
BASED. THERE ARE
DEPOSITS OF THESE
MASKS ALL OVER
THE WORLD.

HUNDREDS.
MAYBE THOUSANDS
OF MEMBERS.

THERE
HAS TO BE SOME
WAY.

THERE
IS NOT.

BUT SEE,
YOU DON'T
ACTUALLY KNOW
EVERYTHING,
AL. EDDIE?

JUST DESTROY
THE MASK AND
FORGET IT.

COME
ON--

HE DOESN'T
WANT TO HELP
YOU, BRUCE,
EVEN IF HE
COULD.

I MAY NOT KNOW
EVERYTHING, BUT
I KNOW THAT
MUCH.

WHY, I'M JUST
ASKING QUESTIONS.

YOU KNOW
WHAT THE OLDEST
KNOWN RIDDLE IS, BRUCE?

"WHAT BUILDING
DOES A MAN
WALK INTO BLIND
AND WALK
OUT WITH
SIGHT?"

A SCHOOL.
KNOWLEDGE IS
VISION.

ME, I SEE
A LOT. TOO MUCH,
SOMETIMES. ADMITTEDLY,
IT'S WHY FRIENDSHIP
HASN'T BEEN EASY TO
FIND...AND WHY I VALUE
YOURS SO MUCH. SO THIS
IS ME LOOKING AT
YOU, AND ASKING
YOU TO PLEASE.
STOP.

HOLD
ON, IT'S
HARVEY.

TAK

I HAVE
ONE MINUTE
BEFORE I HAVE
TO BE IN COURT
WITH A JUDGE
WHO HATES
MY FACE.

BUT I DID
WHAT YOU ASKED,
LOOKED INTO THE
ARK M FUND, THOUGH
IT COULD GET MY
ASS FIRED.

A LOT OF
THE FUNDING
COMES FROM A
COMPANY CALLED
J.K. HOLDINGS.

HIGHLY DIVERSIFIED,
SUBSIDIARIES ACROSS THE
GLOBE, BUT ONE SPECIALTY IS
BUILDING SECURE FACILITIES...
PRIVATE PRISONS, BRUCE.

AND NOT JUST
ORDINARY ONES,
EITHER. BLACK
SITES.

AND THESE SITES, THEY HAVE
INVESTMENT FROM BIO TECH,
PHARM, EVEN GENOMICS FIRMS.
WHATEVER IS HAPPENING
AT THESE PLACES...



"...IT'S NOT
GOOD."

WELCOME,
WELCOME!

I APPRECIATE
YOU AGREEING TO
MEET ME.

YOU'RE NOT GETTING MY
ENDORSEMENT, HILL.
IF THAT'S WHY YOU INVITED
ME HERE, YOU CAN FORGET
IT. JIM AND I--

WHOA, WHOA!
SLOW DOWN,
COMMISSIONER. I'M
NOT TRYING TO STEAL YOU
AWAY FROM OLD JIMMY.
I JUST WANTED TO THANK
YOU FOR ALL YOU DO...

...AND TO
INTRODUCE YOU
TO A FRIEND OF
MINE.

DR. BENJAMIN,
PERMISSION TO COME
ABOARD? IS HE
AVAILABLE?

HE'S IN
THE BODY
ROOM.

WOW. COOL
SHADES.

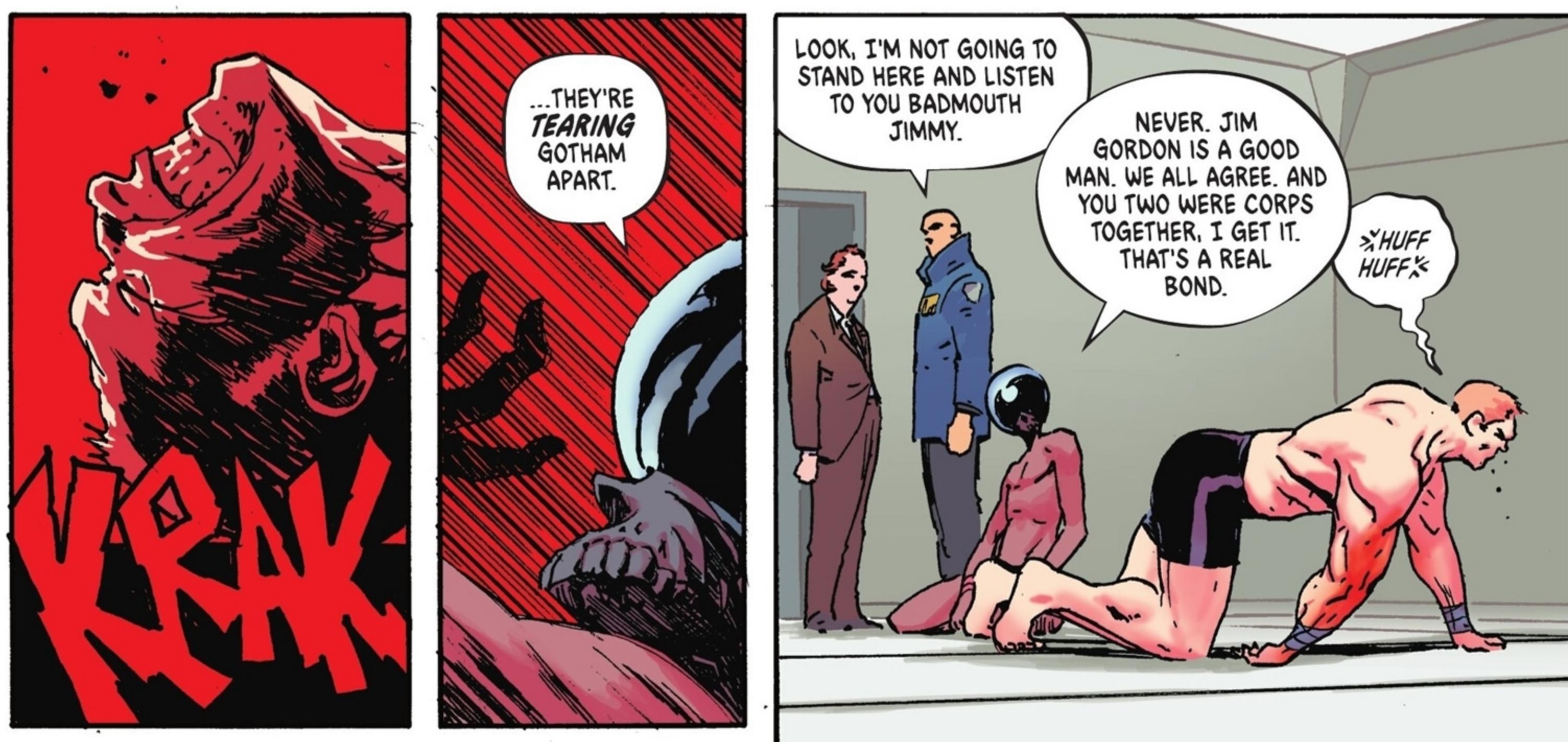
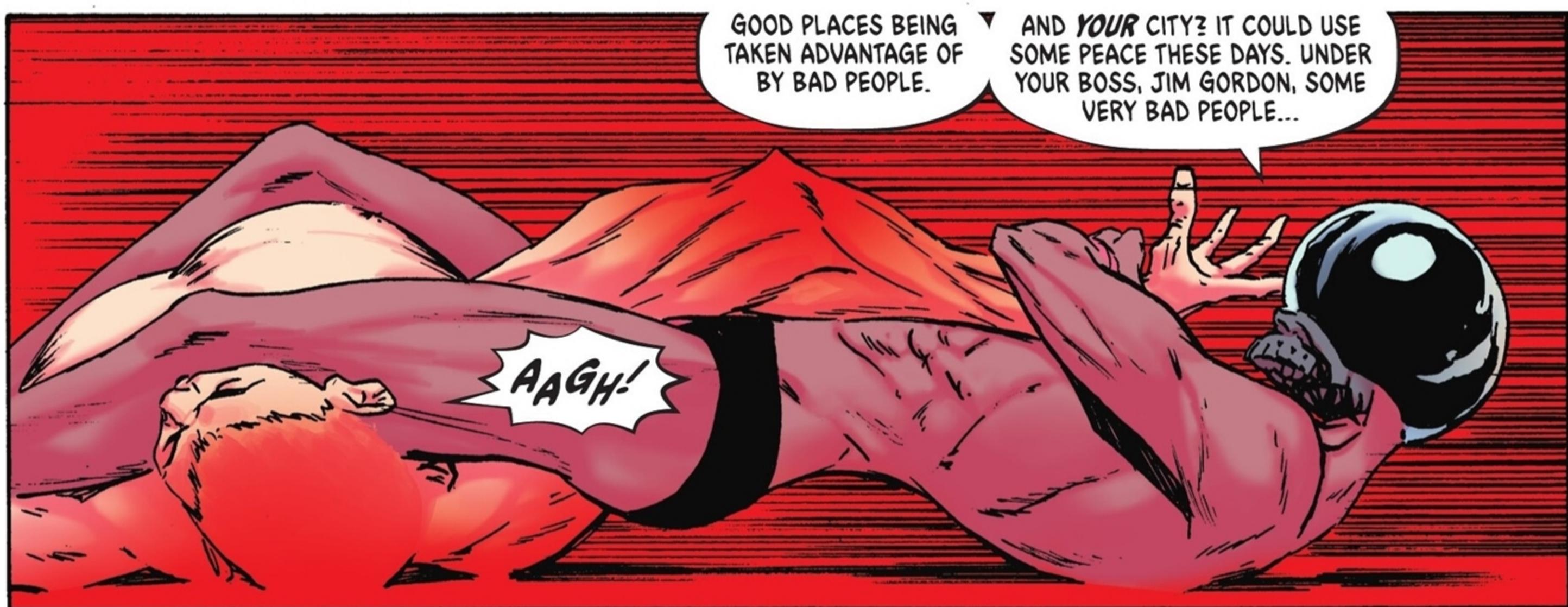
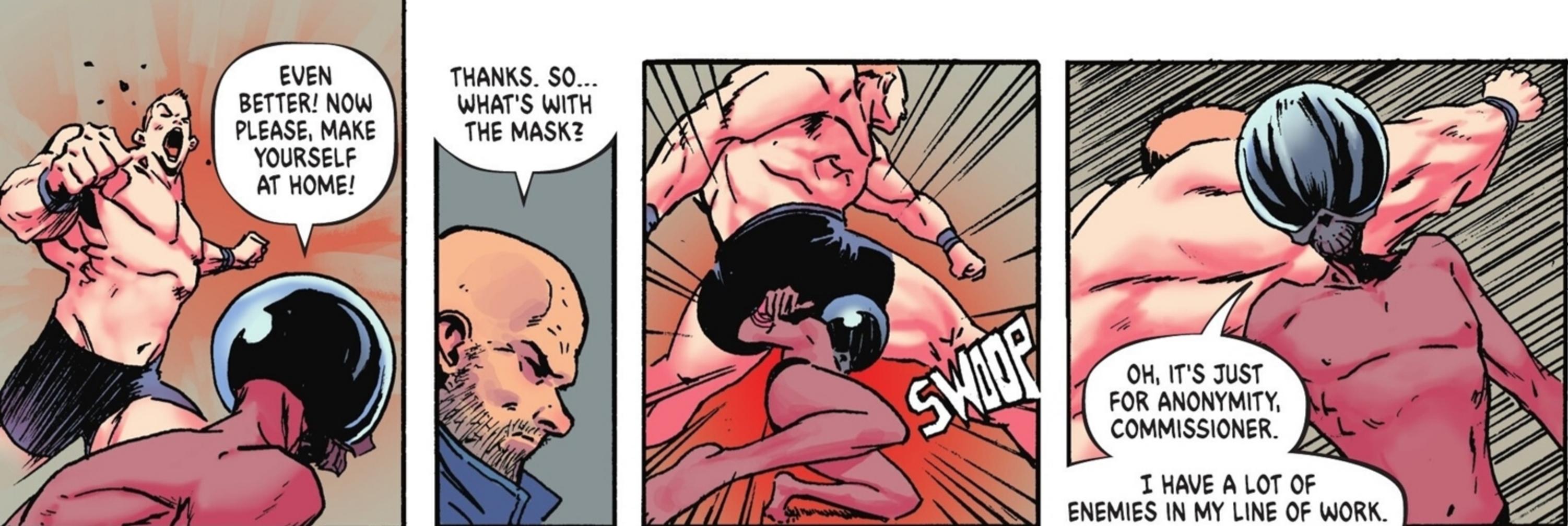
HILL,
I CAME
BECAUSE YOU
SAID YOU COULD
HELP US.

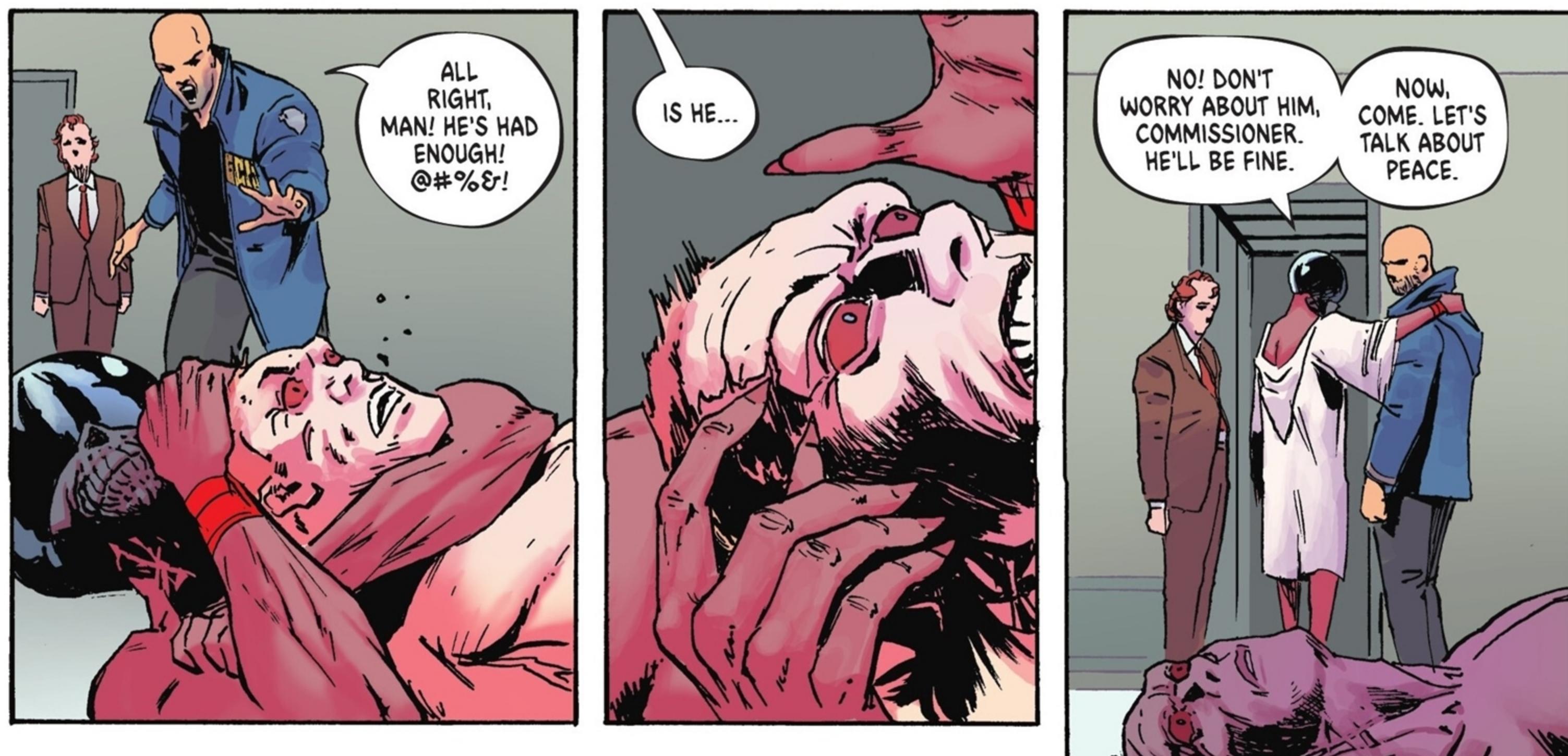
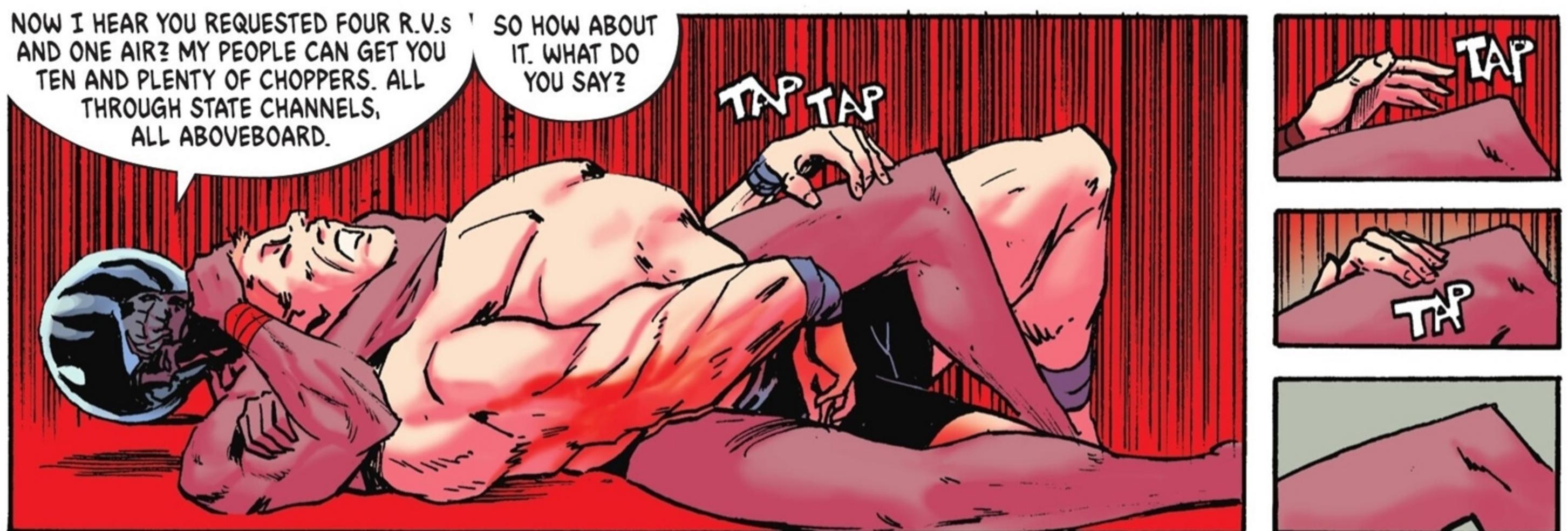
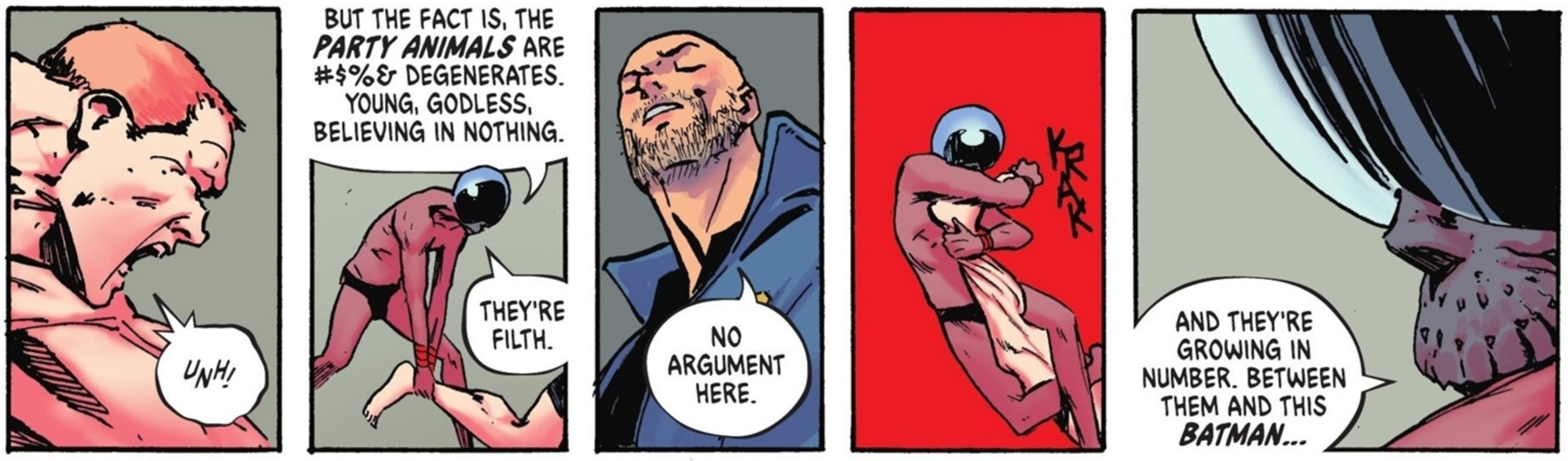
I CAN.
THROUGH
HIM...

...HARVEY
BULLOCK, MEET
MR. ROMAN
SIONIS.

COMMISSIONER!
WELCOME ABOARD!
AND THIS IS--

BIBBO
BIBOWSKI,
FORMER CHAMP.
SOUTHPAW FROM
SUICIDE SLUM.
I WAS--AM--
A FAN.





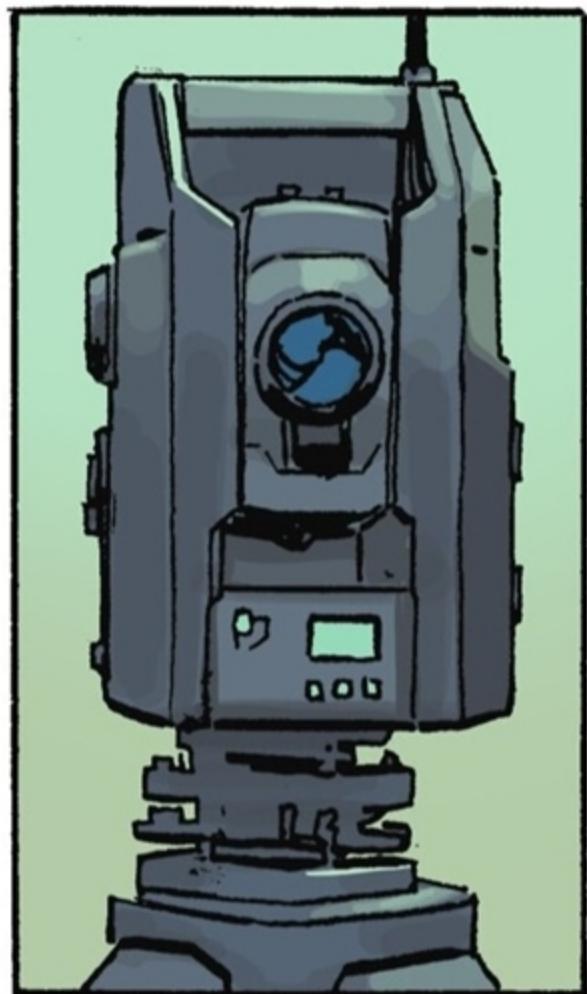
Your eyes open yet, Bruce?
You starting to see
the pieces?

They call them "Arks,"
these black sites.



Secret, unregulated
prisons run in conjunction
with other governments
around the world.

Ark A was the first, the prototype
in Santa Prisca. Ark B is in Russia.
Ark C is China.



Wherever you are, I hope it's
finally coming into focus.



Ark M, the biggest yet,
is planned for Gotham.

Look at it,
Bruce.



Look at what
you're up
against.

And all you
could lose...



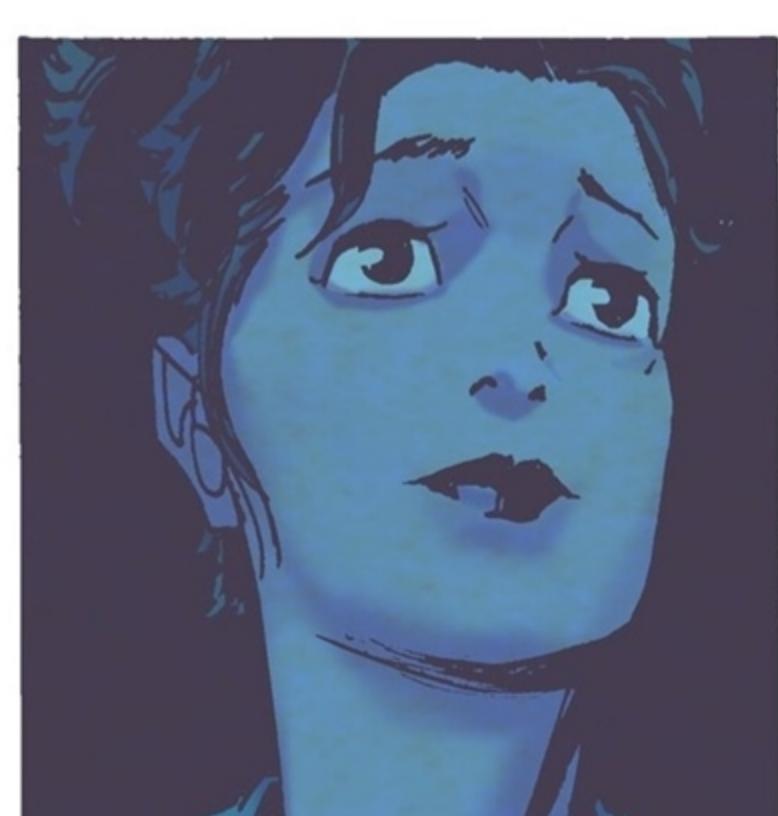


WELL, THIS IS YOUR **CHANCE** TO MEAN SOMETHING, BRUCE. YOU'VE GOT TALENTS OTHER KIDS DON'T HAVE. AND YES, IT'S SCARY AND DANGEROUS AND NEW, BUT YOU NEED TO BLOCK THAT OUT AND GO RIGHT AT IT.

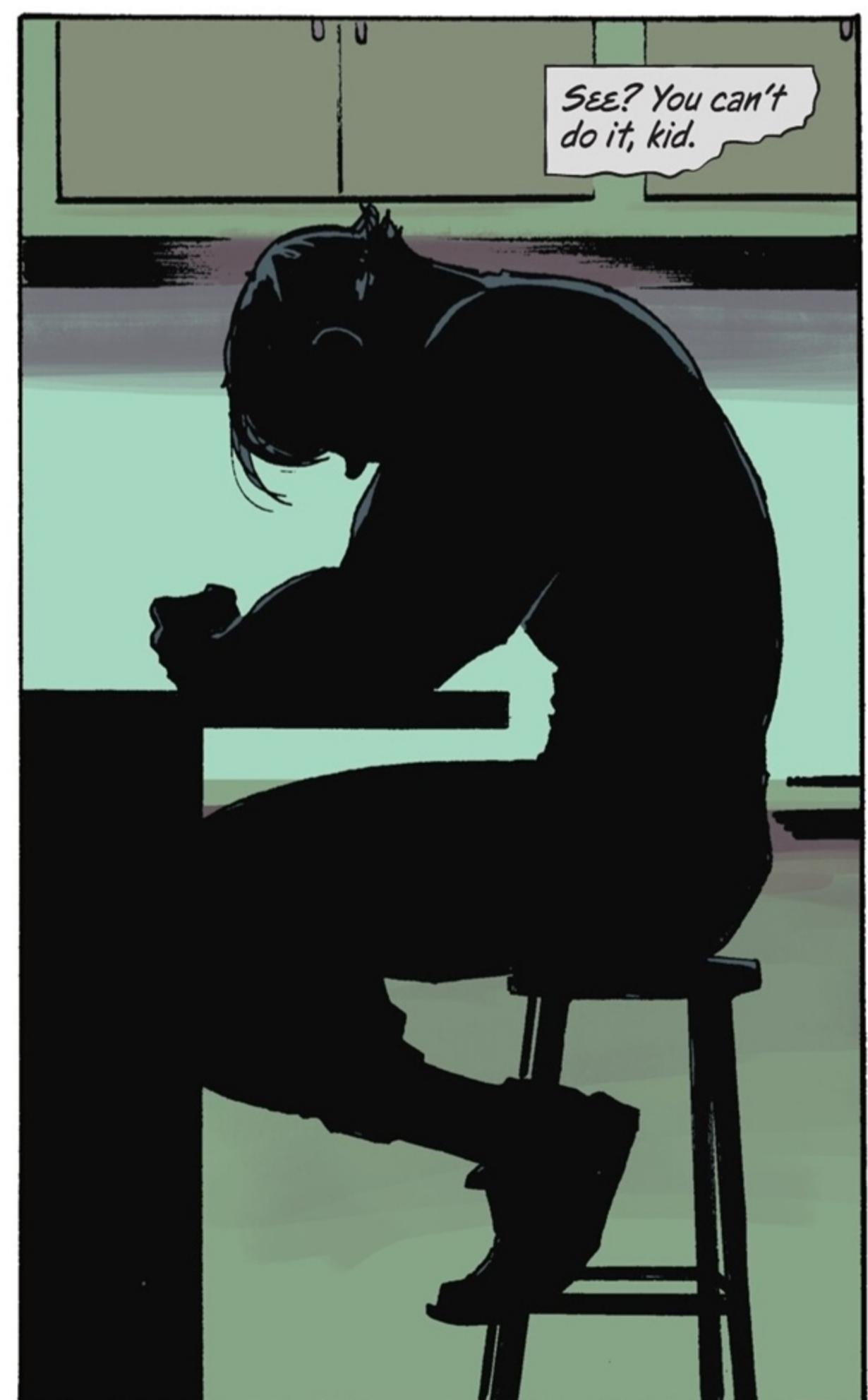
CAT EYES...

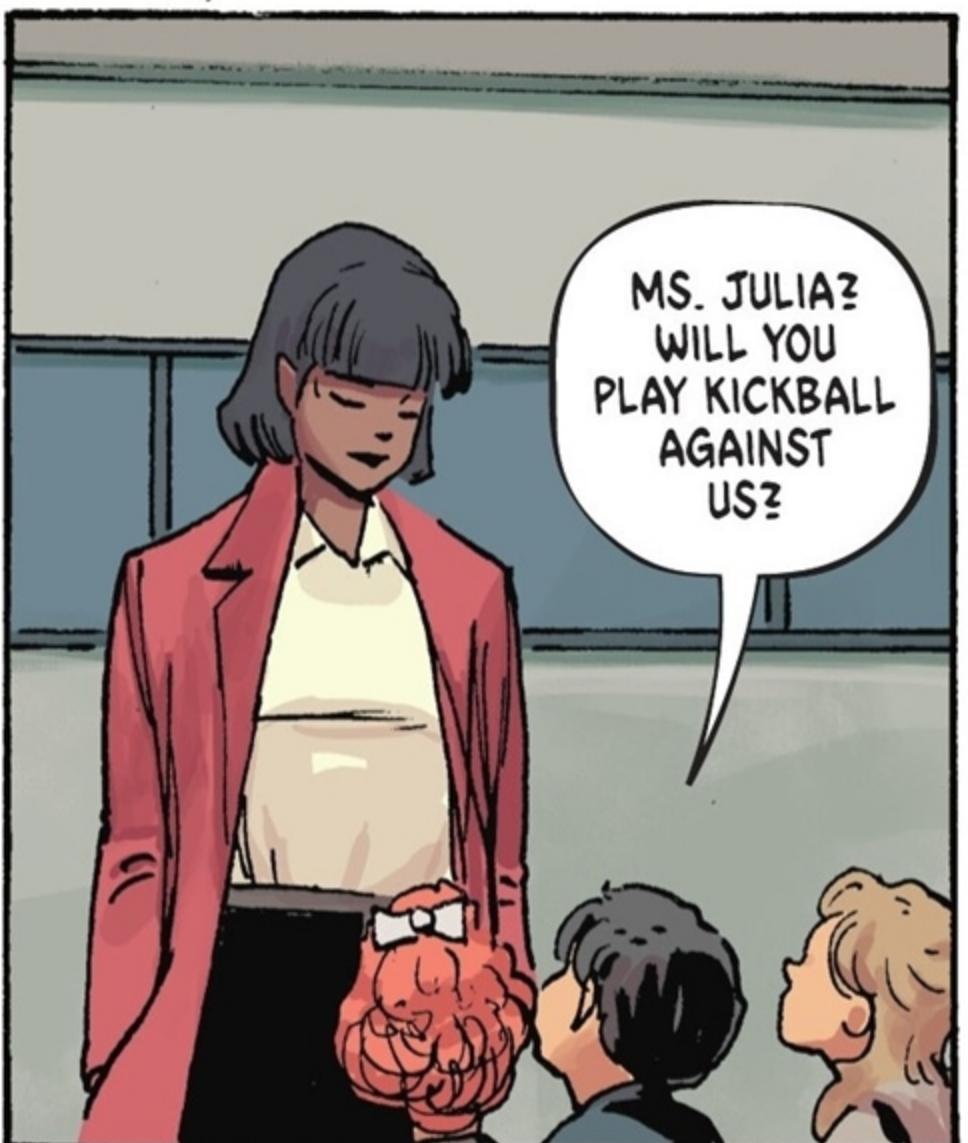


WE'RE ALL WATCHING THIS BORING-ASS MOVIE TOGETHER. BEGINNING TO END.



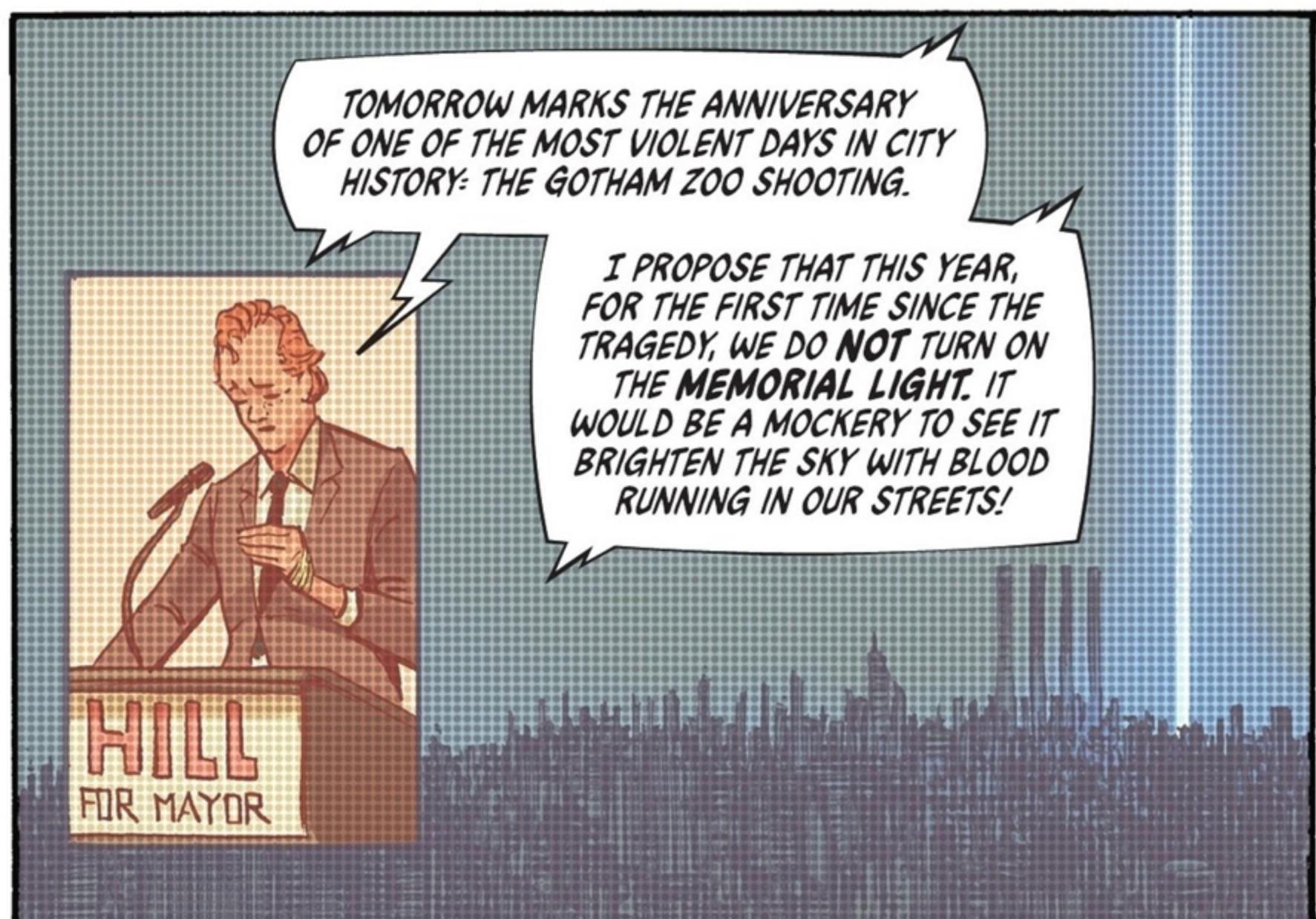
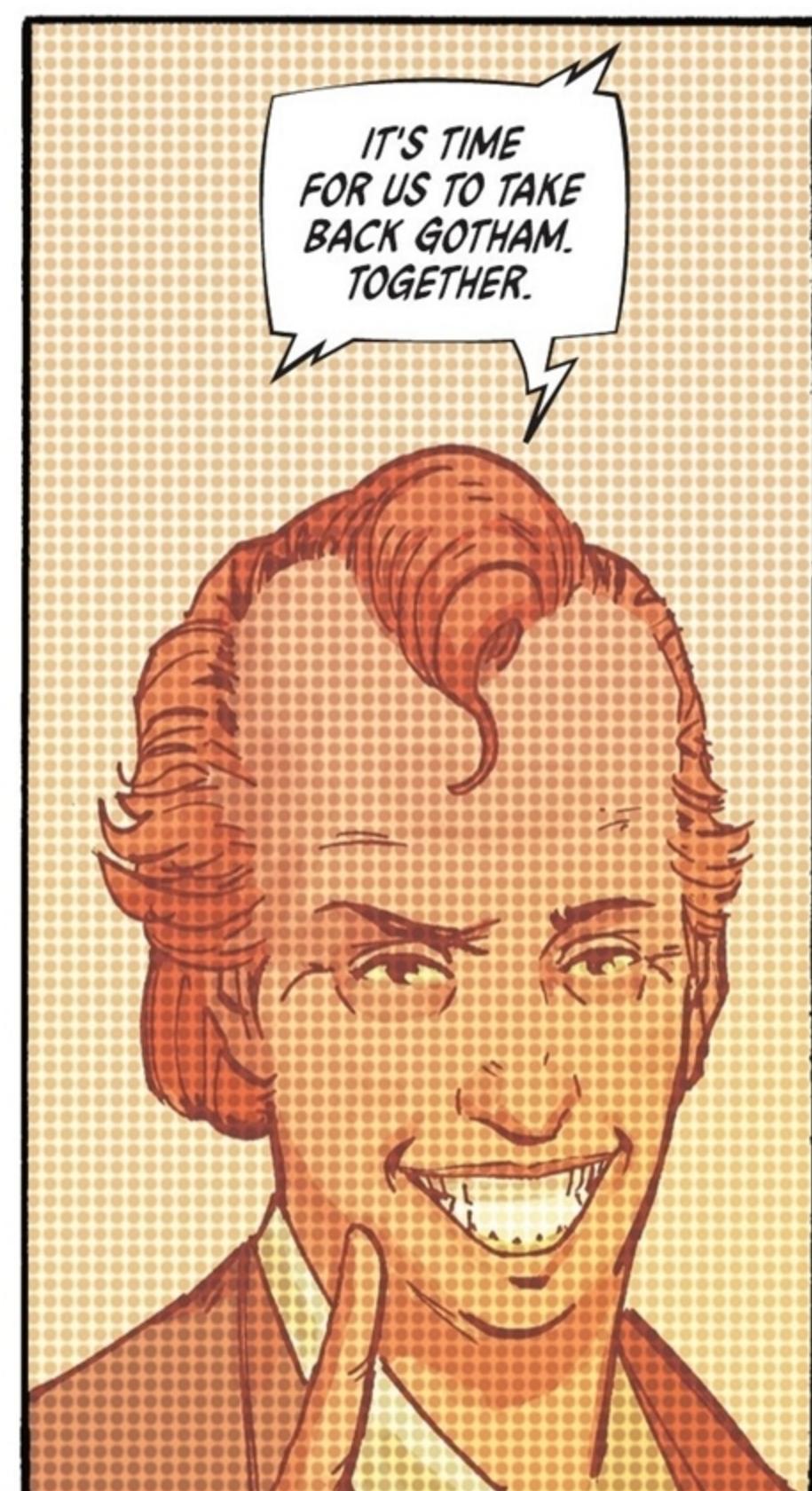
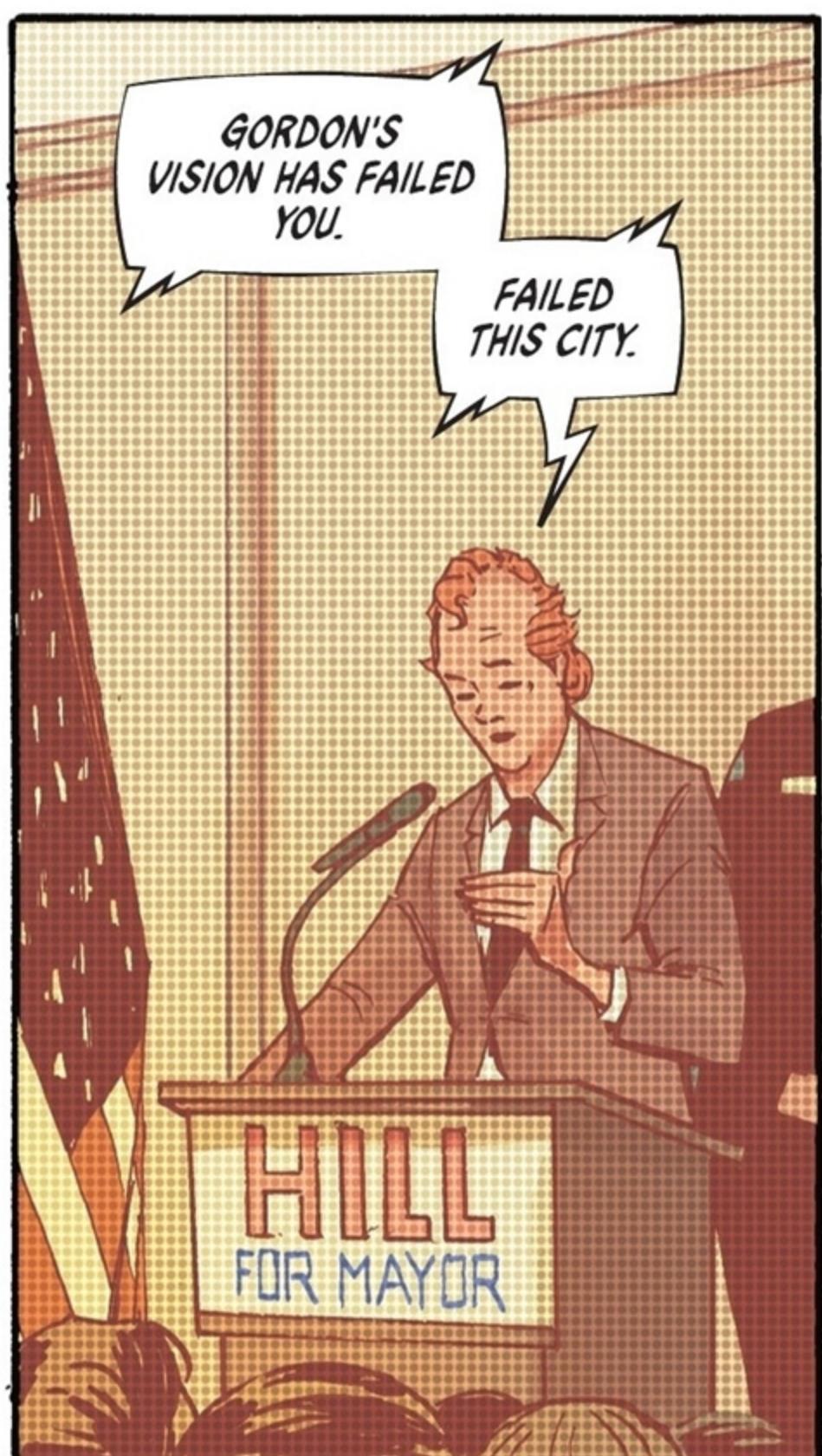
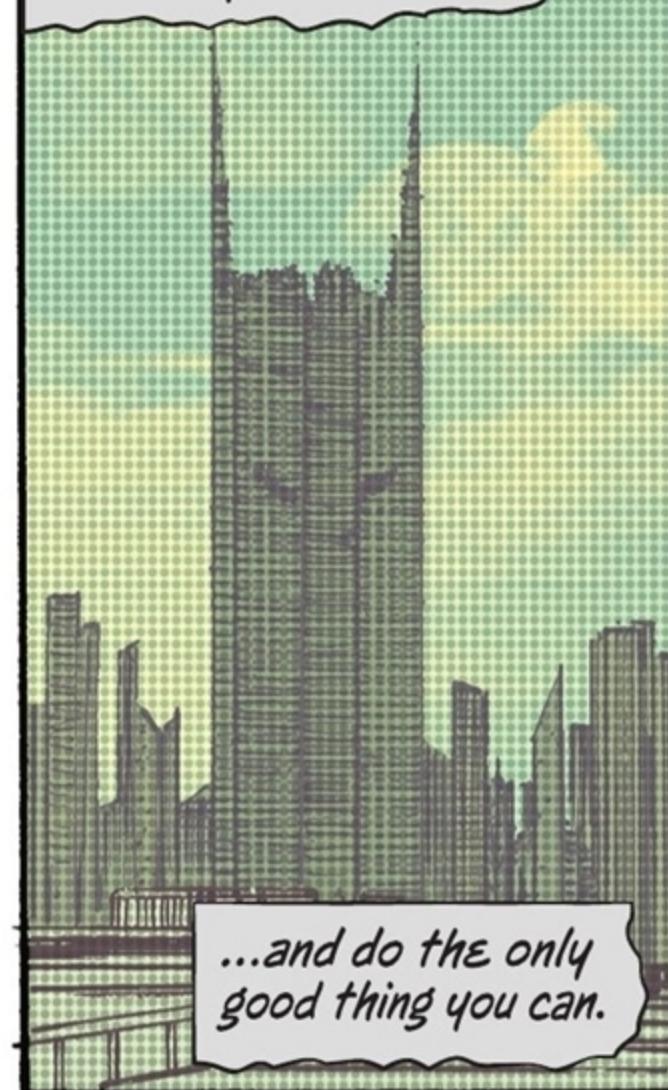
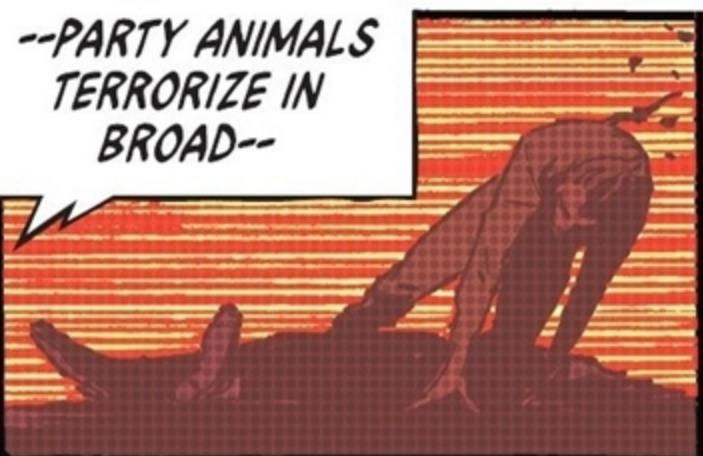








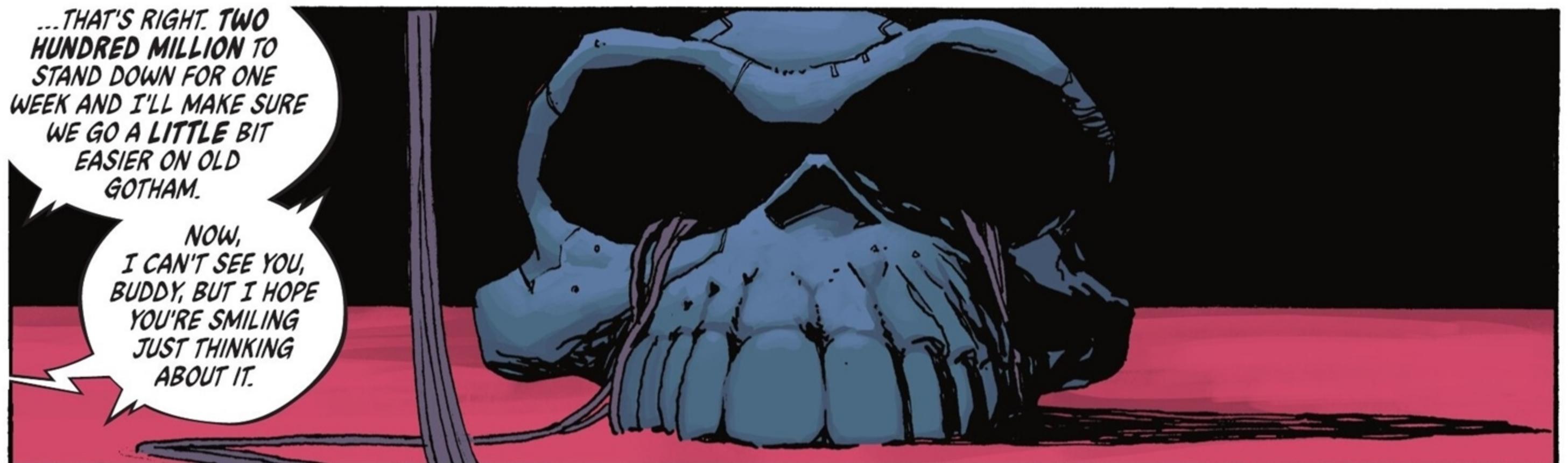
Look around, past your fists, at all the people who'll get hurt. Look up past the towers, the satellites, at the forces at work. A whole sky tilted against you. And then look down past your feet, at how far you could fall...





...THAT'S RIGHT. TWO HUNDRED MILLION TO STAND DOWN FOR ONE WEEK AND I'LL MAKE SURE WE GO A LITTLE BIT EASIER ON OLD GOTHAM.

NOW, I CAN'T SEE YOU, BUDDY, BUT I HOPE YOU'RE SMILING JUST THINKING ABOUT IT.



THINKING ABOUT ALL OF THE GOOD BATMAN COULD DO WITH THAT KIND OF MONEY.



THE CARS. THE WEAPONS. THE TECH.



HE'LL BE SOMETHING LARGER THAN LIFE. SOMETHING EPIC. BATMAN WILL--



ENOUGH.



I'LL TAKE THE DEAL.

